

## Announcements

- ❖ One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings now through April 5th.
- ❖ **Special Congregational Meeting**  
A special meeting of the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2026, immediately after worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a ruling Elder from the floor and at the same time to vote during this meeting to follow the Church's 2025 Bylaws. We kindly ask you to attend this important meeting!
- ❖ **Mark your calendars for Tuesdays Together, a monthly "Dinner Party"** designed for members aged 55 and above. The goals are to connect, fellowship, learn, and dine together. The **Tuesdays Together** event will take place at [Statesville Avenue on March 24, 2026, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM](#), and members from Memorial PC, South End PC, and Smallwood PC will be joining us. The total cost for dinner is \$21.05 per person which includes the service fee. For more details, please check the flyer on the bulletin board and scan the QR code for dinner registration. **Registration will close one (1) week prior to the event date.** Since the dinner will be hosted at **Our Church**, we encourage you to make plans to attend to ensure this event is a success.
- ❖ **Message From the SAPC Session**  
The SAPC Session has granted approval for a request made by Rev. Veronica Cannon, Moderator of South End Presbyterian Church, to use our Church Sanctuary for their meeting scheduled on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 1:00 PM.



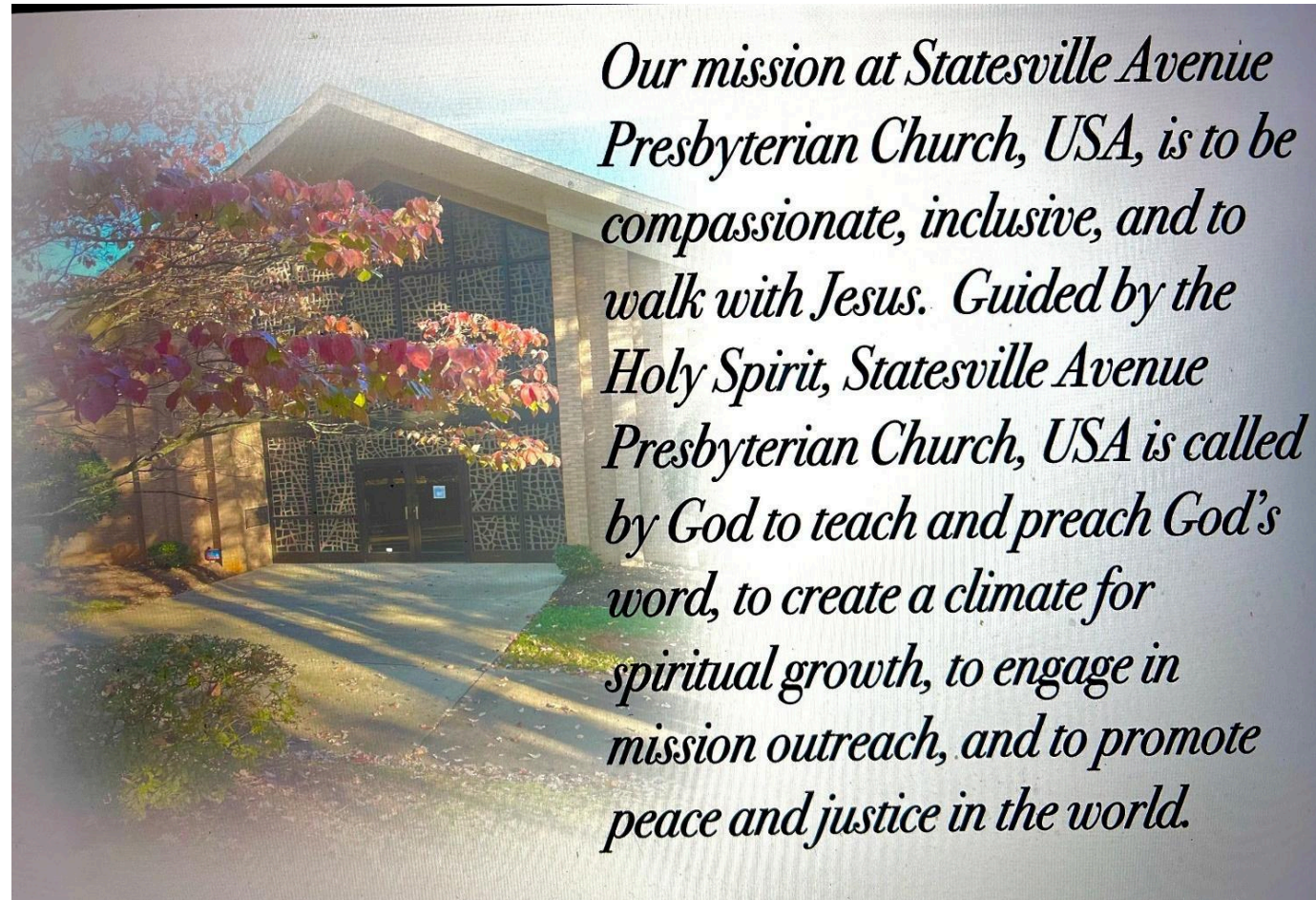
[QR Code](#)

**If you are visiting with us today and would like to give *Gifts and Offering*, you may use your telephone and the QR Code listed above. The QR Code can be scanned from this bulletin and/or the Church Website.**

Note: AA - African American Heritage Hymnal (Beige)  
BB - The Presbyterian Hymnal (Blue)

**STATESVILLE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
3435 NEVIN ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28269**

**March 15, 2026**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Gary S. Blackmon, Pastor  
Cameron Alford, Liturgist  
James Rogers, Jr., Director of Music  
704-596-4550**

[www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org](http://www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org)

**We Gather**

**\*\*Prelude:** "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

**\*\*Announcements & Welcome:**

**Lighting of Candles:**

**\*\*Introit:** "Come, Thou Almighty King"

139 BB

**\*Call to Worship:**

L: Brothers and sisters, let us gather in the light of Christ. For once, we were dark, but now we are light in the Lord. Let us live as children of light, seeking all that is good, right, and true.

**ALL: As we come together, let us awaken from our slumber and rise to new life, trusting that Christ will shine upon us. May our worship reflect the radiance of His truth and the hope He brings, as we walk faithfully in His presence. Amen.**

**\*Centering Prayer:**

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

84 BB

**Prayer of Confession: (Unison)**

Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already have. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness, and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage, and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Jeremiah 33:31-34 states, "The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."

**We believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and our sins are remembered no more.**

**\*Passing the Peace:**

**\*\*Special Selections:** "I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry"

362 BB

**\*Please stand if you are able.  
\*\*Worshippers may enter or exit.**

**The Word**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Holy, magnificent God, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, allow us to see you clearly in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Readings: Proverbs 4:18-19**  
**Cameron Alford, Liturgist**

**Sermon: "Living As Children of Light"**  
**Ephesians 5:8-14**  
**Gary S. Blackmon, Pastor**

### **We Respond**

**Invitation to Discipleship:** "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" 370 BB

#### **Prayers of the People**

**Choral Response:** "Spirit of the Living God" 322 BB

#### **\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison):**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ our only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**Tithes and Offerings:** "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" 392 BB

**\*Doxology:** "Glory Be to the Father" 579 BB

**\*Celebration Song:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" 369 BB

#### **\*Charge and Benediction:**

#### **Extinguishing of the Candles:**

**Postlude:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" 438 BB